

Claims 1-16, 25 and 26 were pending. Claims 17-24 were previously cancelled. In the Final Rejection, the Examiner referenced only claims 1-16 at paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Office Action. Claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 10-14 were rejected. Claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 15 and 16 were objected to. No mention was made regarding claims 25 and 26.

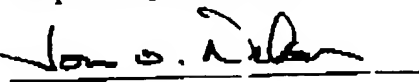
Applicant now submits amended claims 1, 3-16 and 25-60. Independent claim 27 corresponds to the subject matter of claim 3. Independent claim 41 corresponds to the subject matter of claim 5. Independent claim 53 corresponds to the subject matter of claim 9. Independent claim 54 corresponds to the subject matter of claim 15. Independent claim 25 incorporates features of claim 3. In sum, claims 1, 25, 27, 41, 53 and 54 are independent. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the claims as now pending is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicant respectfully maintains the assertion that the claims previously submitted distinguish from the prior art, particularly as explained in the amendments and the specification. However, in order to expedite the processing of the subject matter of the application, Applicant has made the amendments in accord with the characterization of allowable subject matter set forth by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests passage of the enclosed and amended claims to allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By:

  
Jon O. Nelson  
Counsel for Applicant  
Registration No. 24,566

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.  
Ten South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606  
312.463.5000

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Attorney Doct et No.: 006379.00015